

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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30 DEC 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Reconnaissance Office

SUBJECT: IDEALIST/TACKLE Mission Planning and Alerting Procedures

- REFERENCE:
- A. 16 December 1969 conversation concerning IDEALIST/TACKLE missions between Brigadier General Ross of OSA and [redacted] of your Staff.
  - B. Memo from NRO to General Ross dated 16 December 1969; Subject: Aircraft/Drone Overflight Missions [redacted]

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1. During the subject conversation [redacted] proposed that specific IDEALIST/TACKLE overflight routes be provided the 303 Committee for approval. This would be a change from our current practice of seeking 303 approvals for a bank of four unspecified China Mainland overflights, in addition to the four peripheral flights 20 miles off the China Mainland. These flights are based on current USIB and COMIREX target requirements.

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2. In view of the possibility of the resumption of China overflights and the operational considerations concerning our present mission planning, it is considered appropriate to review for your information the current procedures used by the Office of Special Activities in developing and designing IDEALIST/TACKLE flight routes.

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3. Detailed flight routes are prepared considering the ChiCom air defense system, the COMIREX priority target list for China, the U-2R collection capability (photography and Sigint), weather factors for the area, and flight characteristics and defensive systems of the U-2. Analysis of these factors influences target approach headings, turn points, offset distances from known SAM sites, and on-off times for the collection sensors.

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details concerning the specific flight route are constantly monitored to insure route updating with the latest available intelligence information. Toward this end, the ChiCom air defense order-of-battle is reviewed daily for changes as are the periodic COMIREX target lists to insure updating for optimum routing where necessary. Thus a specific route can be modified several times prior to its actual use. Situations such as changing weather, SA-2 site study along proposed route, or a late routing changes after the mission is alerted 24 hours prior to launch.

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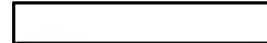
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5. For the above reasons, we would like to continue our procedure of requesting 303 Committee approval for a given number of overflights each month without reference to specific flight tracks. We are looking forward to a return as soon as possible to the system which was in effect prior to seizure of the Pueblo wherein the 303 Committee granted approval of these overflights each month. Such a method of operation allows us the flexibility we require to capitalize on short weather breaks and to

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CARL E. DUCKETT  
Director, CIA Reconnaissance Programs

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SIGNATURE RECOMMENDED:

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[Redacted Signature]

Director of Special Activities

29 Dec 1969  
Date

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INTEL/O/OSA [Redacted] (29 December 1969)  
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